



Strengthening the Circle: Fraser Salish Indigenous Health Research Symposium

Day 1 Speakers (June 3, 2021)



Elder Patricia Victor is Stó:lō residing at Cheam First Nation. She is the Siya:m, Aboriginal leader at Trinity Western University. Her role at TWU includes Director of the Institute of Indigenous Issues and Perspectives, Chair of Indigenous Partnership Council as well as part time faculty, teaching Indigenous Perspectives in Education, and Stó:lō culture. Her greatest joy is experiencing how relationship and education brings transformation to the hearts and minds of all learners, bringing us closer to reconciliation in our nation.



Dr. Charlotte Loppie is a professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy and Associate Dean-Research for the faculty of Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria. Dr. Loppie has spent the past 25 years working in service to Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations, leading or co-leading health research networks and centres, original research, catalyst projects and knowledge translation. She seeks to expand and support opportunities for Indigenous academic and community health researchers as well as graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Believing that every leader is a teacher, and everyone is a learner, she centres the priorities of Indigenous Peoples while respecting community leadership and capacities to self-determine.



Amanda LaVallee is a Red River Métis woman from Saskatchewan. She spent much of her childhood keenly attuned to the prairie landscape through the activities of hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and gardening. She holds a Bachelor degree of Indigenous Social Work from the First Nations University of Canada, a Master's degree of Social Work from the University of Regina, and a PHD and Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the department of Community Health and Epidemiology from the University of Saskatchewan. Amanda is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work and Human Services at the University of the Fraser Valley. Her research focus is on the health and well-being of Métis people and their engagement within social systems and their impact on relationships.

Robert (Bobby) Henry is Métis from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and is the current Director of the First Nations Metis Health Research Network (NEIHR Networks).

Chelsea Gabel is Red River Métis from Rivers, Manitoba. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Well-being, Community-Engagement and Innovation and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health, Aging and Society and the Indigenous Studies Program at McMaster University.



Len Pierre is an Indigenous Thought Leader, Speaker, & Consultant. Len is a Coast Salish Consultant, public speaker, educator, cultural practitioner and spiritual gangster. With a background in adult education and cultural knowledge systems, Len aims to decolonize and transform corporate systems, approaches, policies, and curriculum content in any professional discipline. In a time of Truth & Reconciliation, Len believes that the need to bridge the Indigenous and non-Indigenous realities has never been greater. With a focus on recentring Indigenous knowledge and values, he provides educational lectures, workshops and consultation services to any willing service provider.



Kendra Rieger, RN, PhD, is a settler who lives and works on the traditional ancestral unceded territory of the Stó:lō people and is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at Trinity Western University. Her research program focuses on arts-based research, arts-based approaches for psychosocial care and learning, and systematic reviews. She is especially passionate about employing arts-based research methods to understand the health and illness experiences of diverse groups of people to promote health equity. Her funded research projects include examining the use of storytelling as a method in Indigenous health research, using digital storytelling as an arts-based method to understand Indigenous women's experiences of breast cancer, and investigating mindfulness-based arts interventions for the psychosocial care of patients with cancer. She is also a dedicated nurse educator and currently teaches a graduate knowledge translation course and foundations of nursing knowledge course at Trinity Western University.



Marlyn Bennett is a member of the Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation in Manitoba and comes from a family brimming with many artistic talents. She holds expertise in Indigenous Child Welfare, with a special interest in qualitative and arts-based research including photo-voice and narrative inquiry through digital storytelling among First Nations youth transitioning toward adulthood from child welfare care, with child welfare service workers practicing in northern communities, patient engagement, and learning the sacred medicine stories of Indigenous children, youth, and families living with FASD and families with historical child welfare involvement. Dr. Marlyn Bennett is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba and Director of the Master of Social Work Based in Indigenous Knowledges Program. In addition to her scholarly pursuits she is a rock painter and a digital designer. She co-owns a graphic design company (EB2 Image Design Research) and together with her partner Mike, they have been instrumental in developing various company logos, photos, videos and print materials for many Indigenous organizations in Manitoba and Ontario.



Margo Pearce is a settler person of European descent who lives, works, and plays on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples. Since 2006, Margo has been fortunate to work with and be mentored by the Cedar Project. She recently started a new position as the Research & Evaluation Specialist with the Indigenous Cultural Safety team at Fraser Health.



Sherri Pooyak is of Cree ancestry from Sweetgrass First Nation, Saskatchewan currently living in Victoria, BC. Completing her Masters of Social Work in 2009, Sherri has been working in Indigenous health since 2007, first with the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (until 2010). Since 2011, Sherri has worked with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, first as a Community Research Facilitator and in 2012, as Community-based Research Manager (CBRM) with the Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Community Based

Research Collaborative Centre (AHA Centre). She is also the Co-Chair for Island Health Human Research Ethics Board.

As a CBRM working with Indigenous communities who are affected by HIV and AIDS, Sherri assists Indigenous communities in developing their research capacities specific to HIV and AIDS. This ranges from assisting communities in developing a research agenda, connecting communities with academic researchers and assisting both community and researchers in applying for grants directly relating to Indigenous research involving HIV and AIDS. It allows her to connect with communities across Canada and to get to know what is going on in her own province.



Dr. Martha Dow is the Director of the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub at the University of the Fraser Valley and an Associate Professor in the Social, Cultural and Media Studies Department. Dr. Dow completed her BA and MA in Sociology at the University of Western Ontario and her PhD in Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Dow's work emphasizes action-oriented research, community collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making. She is particularly interested in strengthening the relationship between public policy decisions and the lived experiences of the individuals and communities impacted by these decisions. Dr. Dow has worked on a variety of program and policy development projects in relation to

experiences of risk and marginalization, health, and education, and has presented her work internationally. Her appointments by the Solicitor General of Canada as an Independent Chairperson (Pacific Region, Correctional Services of Canada) presiding over serious court and by the Government of British Columbia as a panel member on the Industrial Training Appeal Board have provided Dr. Dow with additional opportunities to engage her commitment to equity, social justice and providing space for marginalized voices. She has worked with all levels of government, the United Nations, and a variety of non-governmental organizations collaborating on over 50 projects, academic papers, book chapters and reports. Dr. Dow is a recipient of the UFV Teaching Excellence Award (2016) and most recently she was asked to lead the creation of the Health and Social Innovation Hub at UFV. The Hub is a collaborative, student-focused, interdisciplinary, and multi-sectoral research and community engagement initiative that encourages innovative and evidence-informed thinking about some of the most pressing and complex health and social issues facing our communities.



Marinel Kniseley, Latinx anthropologist and health researcher, has worked internationally for many years in justice-oriented qualitative research and advocacy with marginalized groups. The proud daughter of a Panamanian mother, Marinel grew up in rural Arkansas (U.S.), navigating two very different worlds. This led to an early awareness of systemic oppression and, later, an appreciation for the power of individuals to enact their own transformative ethics within those frameworks. Her graduate work focused on Mexican immigrant women working in assisted living facilities in Washington, exploring ways they performed their values through their work and created a daily resistance against the standard profit model of institutional care. Since moving to Chilliwack in 2016, Marinel has been grateful for opportunities to hone her skills in community-based participatory research methods, working within the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS) and as Research Manager to Dr. Cindy Jardine, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health and Community at UFV. She is a member of Chilliwack's Child & Youth Committee and serves on the Leadership Table of Chilliwack's Communities Building Youth Futures. She has had the privilege of working with some amazing young adults on youth-empowered research and engagement projects that seek to explore and communicate the experiences and perspectives of street-entrenched youth in Chilliwack, on their own terms. Marinel continues to focus on these areas as a Research Associate at CHASI, with the core goal of centering stakeholders in the research process and working with them to identify ways to improve conditions for their communities.



Greg Laychak is a documentary photographer whose project work has focused on themes of identity and human rights, including reportage in South Korea, China and Peru. He has extensive international experience, having lived abroad for over a decade and spending time in 17 countries during that period. Greg has worked as a photojournalist, reporter and videographer. He has a MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (MAPJD) from the University of the Arts London. His graduate research in South Korea examined visual representation of gendered structural violence and the national collective memory of victim-survivors of colonial Japanese military sexual slavery. Greg's British Columbia-based community journalism work garnered provincial and national awards for writing and photography. Most recently, he has worked with local organizations making photo essays for studies about important social issues. Greg has also enjoyed teaching digital publishing skills to older adults and photography to youth.



Keith Thor Carlson holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous and Community-engaged History at the University of the Fraser Valley, where he has additionally been appointed Director of the new Peace and Reconciliation Centre. He has been working with Coast Salish Knowledge Keepers since 1992. Individually or with partners Carlson has authored or edited eight books and over 50 articles. His scholarship has been translated into three languages, transformed into video documentaries and works of public art, and found expression in expert witness legal reports. Carlson was made an honorary member of the Stó:lō Nation in 2001, and was appointed a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars in 2017.



Lyana Patrick is Dakelh from the Stlat'én First Nation and Acadian/Scottish. She has worked in communications and education for over two decades. She was Education Coordinator in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia where she worked on curriculum development, managed education programs, and promoted knowledge translation of Indigenous research findings to health care providers and health sciences students. She has worked on evaluation projects connected to Indigenous health and education, including for the City of Vancouver where she helped design community engagement for a municipal poverty reduction strategy. She received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to pursue a PhD in the School of Community and Regional Planning where in 2019 she became the first Indigenous PhD graduate. Lyana is currently an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences where her work focuses on the intersection of Indigenous health, planning and justice.



Tsattia Adzich (she/her) is a Cree-Metis PhD student raised on unceded Wet'suwet'en territories in northern BC, by unceded Coast Salish territories, and by urban Indigenous communities and kin in the Metro Vancouver area. Tsattia received her BA (Hons) from Simon Fraser University in 2016, her first MA from the University of Victoria in 2017, her second MA from the University of Northern BC in 2019, and started her PhD in the Geography department at SFU in Fall 2020. Her research is interested in transnational community dialogues and knowledge exchanges between urban Indigenous women based in the Metro Vancouver area and the northeastern Siberian city of Yakutsk, Russia about Indigenous self-determination and kinship-based governance structures. Tsattia is the recipient of SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships at both the Masters (2018) and PhD (2021-2024) level, and was the 2020 recipient of the Pounamu Taonga (Greenstone Treasure) Award from UNBC. Tsattia is involved with the YWCA Indigenous Mentorship Program as a mentor to high school aged Indigenous girls, trans, and non-binary/gender expansive youth, and currently works as the Research Manager for the Skookum Health Research Project with Dr. Lyana Patrick and Krystal Dumais-Ziprick



Krystal Dumais- Ziprick (she/her) is Plains Cree from the Treaty 6 Nation in Saskatchewan. She is new to the role as a research assistant for the health department of SFU. She is a small business owner in Surrey, B.C. Simply Style Mobile Hair Design. She graduated from The Pics Best Program, The Ch'nook Aboriginal Management Program at the Sauder School of Business and Community Leaders Igniting Change program at the Beedie School of Business at SFU. She is also the PAC co-President for Kwantlen Park Secondary and Vice President of the PAC for KB Woodward Elementary school. Krystal is a Skookum Lab ambassador and has been a part of Skookum Lab since the beginning. She likes being a part of like-minded and strong Indigenous ambassadors that help with Skookum Lab and SUILC with their methodologies of addressing and tackling Indigenous Youth in Poverty. She enjoys presenting on behalf of Skookum Lab and has developed the skills to do so thanks to the leadership education she has received since joining.

Jeska Slater (Community Animator, Skookum Lab)



Kathleen Lounsbury, MSN, Trinity Western University

I am a Kwakwak'awkw woman from the Namgis First Nations whose ancestral lands are on the West Coast of Vancouver Island though I currently live in Surrey, BC. I have three wonderful boys aged 17, 14 and 11 and have been married for almost 25 years this June. I love the profession of nursing and hope to influence more cultural sensitivity and humility in our profession. I have spent most of my nursing practice in the FN community and have also discovered a love for nursing research. I have been involved in several research endeavors which have resulted in scholarly articles and recently presented my own

research at the CASN 2021 Conference in early May. I have just completed my MSN degree from Trinity Western University. I hope to continue to educate myself and those around me of Indigenous health perspectives and work towards increased equitable access to a strong health care delivery system for Indigenous peoples and other marginalized populations in Canada. Gilakas'la.

Strengthening the Circle: Fraser Salish Indigenous Health Research Symposium

Day 2 Speakers (June 4, 2021)



Elder William Thomas. I am a 66 year old West Coast male. Our traditional name is the Tseil-Waututh Nation which is located in the Burrard Inlet. When I was 38 years old I started learning from three Cree Elders and two Anishinabek Elders. I was given the Teachings of Sweat Lodge and a few other Ceremonies.

I worked for Covenant House in Vancouver for 5 years. I worked with Street Youth, then with Delta school district for 5 years and for Corrections Services for 3 years. I had to take some time to heal from a few rear ends. I then started working for Fraser Health Aboriginal Health in December, 2018. I am currently working out of The Indigenous Primary Health and Wellness Clinic in Surrey.



Harlan Pruden (nēhiyo/First Nations Cree Nation), works with and for the Two-Spirit community locally, nationally and internationally. Currently, Harlan is Knowledge Translation Lead at Chee Mamuk, an Indigenous health program at British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and is also a co-founder of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab, Turtle Island's first research group/lab that exclusively focuses on Two-Spirit people, communities and/or experiences. Harlan is also the Managing Editor of the TwoSpiritJournal.com and an Advisory Member for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Gender and Health. Before relocating to Vancouver in 2015, Harlan was co-founder and a Director of NYC community based organization, the NorthEast Two-Spirit Society and was a President Obama appointee to the US Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and

provided advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Health & Human Services and the White House. (In December 2018, Harlan was (happily) fired/dismissed from PACHA by Mr. Trump via Fedex.)



Angela Kaida is an epidemiologist and Canada Research Chair at Simon Fraser University whose global research program centers on a rights-based, evidence-informed, and community-driven approach to sexual and reproductive health among women and youth affected by HIV. Angela practices active allyship with women living with HIV throughout her work



Valerie Nicholson: Honouring her given names The One the Eagles watch over, NoDe WenDa {wolf eyes} and Auntie from the Torres Straight Islanders, Valerie is Mi'kmaq, Haida, Roma and UK Islander descent. A mother of 4 boys and grandmother of 5 grandchildren. Living with HIV for 17 years, Valerie currently works at the BC Center for Excellence in HIV/AIDS as a Peer Researcher and Co-investigator, at AIDS Vancouver as Indigenous Peer Navigator and member of the Canadian Coalition to reform HIV Criminalization. Valerie is the 2018 recipient of CAHR Red Ribbon Research award, the 2019 AIDS Vancouver Red Ribbon Award for Outstanding Contribution to the HIV/AIDS Movement, and the 2019 CAHR-CANFAR excellence in research CBR (CHIWOS) She is the past board Chair of Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network. She works with youth as Elder for Camp Moomba, YouthCo, First Directions and Yuusnewas. Her new adventure is in Activism.



Becky Gormley is a research coordinator for two national, community-based studies focused on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV in Canada. She is privileged to work and learn beside women living with HIV, and is constantly working to practice allyship in a good way.



Naxaxalhts'i, also known as Dr. Albert "Sonny" McHalsie is a historical researcher and cultural interpreter. Naxaxalhts'i has worked for the Stó:lō as a researcher in cultural heritage and aboriginal rights and title issues since 1985. He currently acts as the cultural advisor on the Treaty Negotiation Team for the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association. He was a co-author of the book *I Am Stó:lō: Katherine Explores Her Heritage* (1997) – focusing on his family and his daughter. He contributed to and served on the editorial board of the award-winning publication *A Stó:lō Coast Salish Historical Atlas* (2001). He was also the author of *We Have To Take Care Of Everything That Belongs To Us* in Bruce Miller's *Be Of Good Mind* (2007). He also wrote the foreword in Keith Thor Carlson's *The Power Of Place, The Problem Of Time* (2010). His areas of expertise include Halq'eméylem Place Names, Fishing, and Stó:lō Oral History. He has also been featured in many television documentaries for the CBC, APTN and Omni. He is a member of the Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation, the proud father of two girls and six boys, and has six grandchildren. He continues to fish at his ancestral fishing ground at Aseláw in the Stó:lō Five Fishery in the lower Fraser River canyon.



Leslie Bryant's (MSc, CSEP-CEP, Regional Practice Lead, Research, KT & Indigenous Engagement, Interior Health and Adjunct Professor, UBC Okanagan, School of Health and Exercise Sciences) research interests lie in the areas of health service delivery, Indigenous health, knowledge translation and application within healthcare and research capacity building. Ms. Bryant is working on developing key relationships with Indigenous communities and academic researchers across Canada to enable collaboration and networking opportunities. She is engaged in the measurement of KT activities, particularly the measurement of relationship building and its influence on knowledge transfer. She is involved in research that's exploring and supporting land-based health and healing with both the Tsilhqot'in and Secwepemc Nations. Leslie is the mother of three children and has an organic farm in Sylix Nation territory in Lake Country, BC



Danielle Wilson is a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, located in the Nuu-chah-nulth territory of Vancouver Island and is from the Masso and Frank families. She is mother to 3 active children and has been married for 18 years. She has worked for all levels of government including for her own First Nation community, Tribal Council, federal, provincial and local levels. More recently, she is the Executive Director for an Indigenous Health Centre on Manitoulin Island, leading a team of health professionals to promote health and wellness of Anishinabek peoples. Danielle has a B.Sc. from University of Victoria, Bachelor of Technology in Environmental and Public Health from British Columbia Institute of Technology and Master Degree in Public Health from University of Waterloo.